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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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ANOTHER MARVEL
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**THE
HUMAN
TORCH**
and
THE BEETLE!
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"WHERE FLIES THE BEETLE...!"

GUEST-STARRING The HUMAN TORCH



ANOTHER MIGHTY MILESTONE IN THIS
**THE MARVEL AGE
OF COMICS!**

DELICIOUSLY WRITTEN BY:
STAN LEE
DELIRIOUSLY ILLUSTRATED BY:
STEVE DITKO
DELIGHTFULLY LETTERED BY:
S. ROSEN

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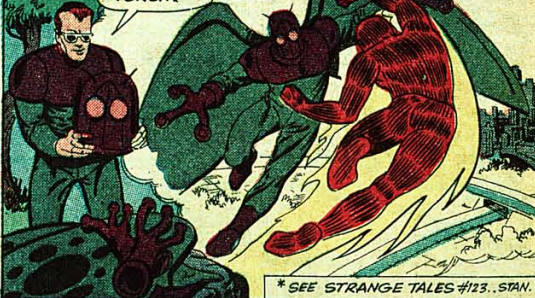
WHEN A MAN HAS FINISHED HIS PRISON TERM, HE **MUST** BE SET FREE. HE TAKE HIS PLACE IN SOCIETY AGAIN! EVEN SUCH A MAN AS ABNER JENKINS, BETTER KNOWN TO VARIOUS LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AS... **THE BEETLE**...

THEY HAD TO GIVE ME BACK MY BEETLE EQUIPMENT! THERE'S NO LAW AGAINST A MAN OWNING AN ARMORED COSTUME!



THEN, WHEN JENKINS REACHES A SECLUDED SPOT IN THE NEARBY WOODS...

THIS IS THE MOMENT I'VE DREAMED OF ALL THESE MONTHS! ONCE AGAIN I'LL DON MY **BEETLE OUTFIT**, AND GET MY REVENGE AGAINST THE **HUMAN TORCH**!



*SEE STRANGE TALES #123... SPAN.

A SHORT TIME LATER, AS A TYPICAL TEEN-AGE COUPLE WALK THROUGH THE STREETS OF NEW YORK ... (OR, ARE THEY REALLY SO TYPICAL ??)

I'VE REALLY ENJOYED OUR DATE TODAY, JOHNNY! YOU ACTED LIKE A QUIET, NORMAL... JOHNNY! WHAT IS IT?

THIS HEADLINE IN THE PAPER, DORIS! IT'S THE **BEETLE**! HE WAS RELEASED FROM PRISON TODAY!



BUT, THAT DOESN'T CONCERN YOU! HE'LL PROBABLY FADE INTO OBSCURITY AND... OH, NO! NOT AGAIN!

I'M SORRY, HONEY! BUT I KNOW THAT JOKER! HE'LL BE MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVER NOW!



I'VE GOT TO SEARCH THE CITY! MAYBE I CAN FIND SOME TRACE OF HIM!

MEANWHILE, IN A QUIET SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD IN FOREST HILLS, WE FIND ANOTHER TYPICAL TEEN-AGER... (ABOUT AS TYPICAL AS JOHNNY STORM...)

WHEN I GUESS I'VE BEEN STUDYING TOO LONG! I'M GETTING A STIFF BACK! ONLY ONE THING TO DO...

I'VE GOT TO GET THE KINKS OUT... AND I KNOW JUST HOW TO DO IT!



WITHIN SECONDS, YOUTHFUL PETER PARKER DONS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS COSTUMES, AND TAKES TO THE ROOFTOPS AS THE AMAZING **SPIDER-MAN**!!

MMM-BY! THIS SURE BEATS DOING PUSH-UPS ALL HOLLOW!



BUT EVEN **SPIDER-MAN** HAS TO REST SOONER OR LATER, AND, WHEN HE STOPS FOR A BREATH, IN HIS OWN PECULIAR WAY...

UH-OH! I'VE BEEN SPOTTED!



LOOK! UP THERE! IT'S **SPIDER-MAN**!!

RUN! THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HE'LL DO NEXT!! WHY DOESN'T SOMEONE CALL THE POLICE?



RATS! I'M ABOUT AS WELL-LOVED BY MY FELLOW CITIZENS AS J. EDGAR HOOVER IS BY THE MAFIA!



HMM! IT'S A BIG NIGHT FOR SUPER-HEROES TONIGHT! THERE'S THE **HUMAN TORCH**, FLYIN' AROUND AS IF HE HAD SENSE!



OH, LOOK! IT'S THE **HUMAN TORCH**!! WHAT A BREAK! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE HIM IN REAL LIFE!



HEY, TORCH! HOW ABOUT DOIN' A FEW TRICKS FOR US, PAL??

NO SIGN OF THE **BEETLE** SO FAR, SO I MIGHT AS WELL PUT ON A LITTLE EXHIBITION FOR MY FANS!



WOW! LOOK AT THAT!

BOY! IF THAT DOESN'T TAKE THE CAKE, I APPEAR IN THE CITY, AND PEOPLE RUN FOR THE HILLS! BUT THAT FLAMIN' FREAK SHOWS UP, AND THEY KNOW THEMSELVES OUT FALLIN' ALL OVER HIM!



THAT'S ALL FOR NOW, FOLKS! I'VE GOT A LITTLE JOB TO DO! KEEP 'EM FLYING!!



AHH! I'VE FOUND HIM, AT LAST! NOW TO SILENTLY FOLLOW WHILE I DECIDE HOW TO DEAL WITH HIM!



YAYYY! TORCH!



STILL NO SIGN OF THE BEETLE! I'D BETTER HEAD BACK BEFORE MY FLAME CUTTERS OUT!



WHAT SUPREME IRONY! HE'S PROBABLY SEARCHING FOR ME, LITTLE DREAMING THAT I'M EASILY FOLLOWING HIM!

I MIGHT AS WELL HEAD BACK HOME I'VE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO THAN WATCH THAT BLAZING BIRDBRAIN PLAYING TO THE CROWD!

AND SO, OUR SMALL, COLORFUL CAST OF CHARACTERS PART COMPANY... BUT, ONLY FOR THE TIME BEING! FLAMING OFF, JOHNNY STORM CALLS UPON HIS GIRL FRIEND, NOT SUSPECTING THAT THE BEETLE IS LURKING OUTSIDE...



HI, DORRIE-DOLL! WHO INVITED YOU TO MY DREAM BOAT'S BACK?

AWW, YOU'RE NOT ANGRY AT ME JUST CAUSE I FLAMED ON AND FLEW AWAY FOR A WHILE, ARE YOU?



OF COURSE NOT! I LOVE HAVING MY DATE SUDDENLY LEAVE ME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET WHILE HE MAKES A SILLY, SMOKING SPECTACLE OF HIMSELF!

BUT, DORRIE... NO "BUTS," JOHNNY STORM! I'VE HAD IT! I WANT A BOY FRIEND, NOT A BLAZING JUVENILE SHOW-OFF IN A SILLY UNIFORM!



LOOK, JUST GIVE ME ONE MORE CHANCE...

VERY WELL THEN! I'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE, IF YOU CAN SPEND A FULL 24 HOURS WITHOUT FLAMING ON EVEN ONCE, I'LL MAKE BELIEVE THIS NEVER HAPPENED! BUT, IF YOU TURN INTO THE HUMAN TORCH AGAIN...



VERY WELL... WE'LL SEE! BUT REMEMBER... JUST ONE CRY OF FLAME ON... EVEN A WHISPER... OR JUST ONE LITTLE SPARK... AND YOU'D BETTER FORGET MY PHONE NUMBER!



IT'S A DEAL! LOVE OF MY LIFE! BUT, WHAT DID YOU FEED YOU WHEN YOU WERE A BABY? NAILS?

MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE THE HOUSE...



I'VE SEEN ENOUGH! NOW I KNOW WHAT TO DO!

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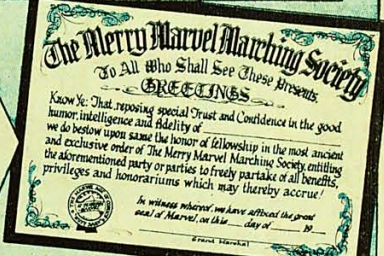
THOUGHT WE'D NEVER DO IT, EH? WELL, HERE IT IS! AN HONEST-TO-GOSH FAR-OUT FAN CLUB IN THE MIXED-UP MARVEL MANNER! WE TRIED TO MAKE IT EXCITING ENOUGH TO PLEASE A YANCI STREETER, MERRY ENOUGH TO FORCE JONAH JAMESON TO CRACK A SMILE, AND DIFFERENT ENOUGH TO MAKE SUB-MARINER SEND US A DRIPPING-WET DOLLAR! SO, IF YOU WANT TO BE ABLE TO TELL YOUR GRANDCHILDREN THAT YOU WERE ONE OF THOSE TO JOIN, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? YOU MAY NEVER GET A CHANCE LIKE THIS AGAIN! (UNTIL NEXT ISH!) AND, FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DON'T TRUST ANYBODY, LOOK: HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL GET...

A GIANT-SIZE M.M.M.S. MEMBERSHIP BUTTON IN DECORATOR COLORS! JUST THE THING TO COVER GRAY STAINS ON YOUR SUPER-HERO CAPE, AND DESIGNED TO LOOK GREAT WHEN WORN NEXT TO YOUR PHI BETA KAPPA KEY!

A WHOLE MESS OF ABSOLUTELY USE-LESS M.M.M.S. STICKERS WHICH YOU CAN PASTE ONTO YOUR BOOKCOVERS, ATTACHE CASE, OR THE HUBBAPS OF YOUR STING-RAY! (AND, FOR THE INGRATES WHO DON'T APPRECIATE THAT READ "HELP STAND OUT THE M.M.M.S."!



WHEN OUR BULLPEN GANG DESIGNS A MEMBERSHIP CARD, WE DON'T KID AROUND! OUR "PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO MARVEL", WHICH YOU'LL FIND ON THE BACK, IS PROBABLY THE FUNNIEST THING SINCE THOR'S LAST CREW-CUT! NATURALLY, IT'S A GREAT STATUS SYMBOL, TOO! JUST WAIVE IT AROUND NEXT TIME YOU'RE INVITED TO THE PENTAGON, AND WATCH THE TOP BRASS FLIP! (YOU MAY DISCOVER THAT THEY'RE MERRY MARCHERS, TOO!)



FOR THOSE OF YOU LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE FIVE FRANTIC FRIENDS, WE'VE GONNA BREAK OUR HEARTS AND OFFER A REAL BARGAIN! ALL SIX OF YOU CAN JOIN FOR ONLY FIVE DOLLARS! AND, BESIDES ALL THE JAZZ MENTIONED ABOVE, WE'LL DESIGNATE THE SIX OF YOU AS AN OFFICIAL M.M.M.S. LOCAL CHAPTER AND SEND YOU THIS PRACTICALLY PRICELESS MARVEL CERTIFICATE! (IT'S FIVE TIMES THE SIZE YOU SEE HERE!) YOU CAN HANG IT ON YOUR CLUBHOUSE WALL, OR PUT IT SOMEWHERE TOO HIGH TO READ AND TELL EVERYBODY IT'S YOUR DIPLOMA FROM OXFORD! AND, OL' SMILING STAN LEE WILL PERSONALLY AUTOGRAPH EACH AND EVERY CERTIFICATE... JUST TO PROVE HE CAN WRITE!



YOU'RE GONNA RECEIVE A FRANKLY FABULOUS 33 1/3 R.P.M. RECORD WITH THE ACTUAL VOICES OF THE BULLPEN GANG CLOWNING AROUND AND WELCOMING YOU TO THE GOOD OL' M.M.M.S.! TALK ABOUT COLLECTOR'S ITEMS... YOU'LL NEVER WANT TO PART WITH IT!

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WRITE NICE AND NEAT! WE'LL AWARD A SPECIAL DE LUXE NO-PRIZE FOR THE BEST COUPON WE GET!

HI, GANG! LET'S FACE IT! I'M A MARVEL MADMAN, TOO! HERE'S MY HARD-EARNED BUCK! NOW, THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS RUSH ALL THOSE NUTTY GIZMOS REAL FAST, TO.....

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ AGE _____ SCHOOL, COLLEGE OR OCCUPATION _____

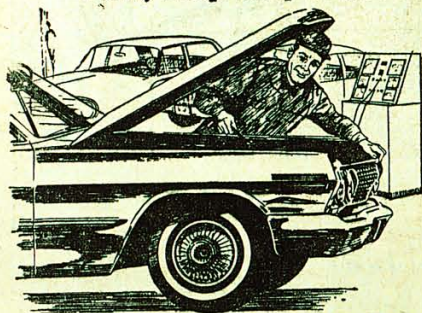
'NUFF SAID!

AND WE WON'T FORGET YOU MERRY MARCHERS! IN THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOW THERE'LL BE MORE SURPRISES TO COME!

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GET AHEAD! Be an Auto Mechanic!

New, Easy Way to Train at Home in Spare Time



MANY STUDENTS EARN MONEY AS THEY TRAIN

CTI training often pays its own way. A surprising number of students report that they earn money in spare time. They fix cars for neighbors and fellow workers. Such work not only provides the student with cash, it also helps him acquire practical experience. Students are able to apply CTI training early in the course because the lessons are so practical.

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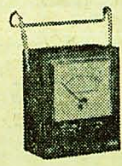
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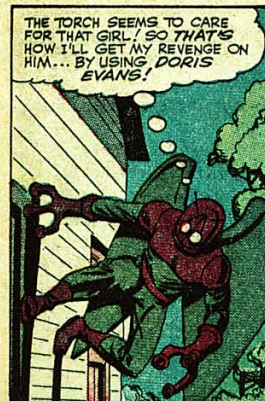
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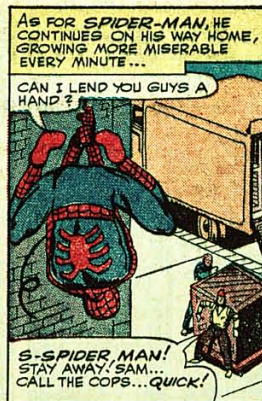
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THE TORCH SEEMS TO CARE FOR THAT GIRL! SO THAT'S HOW I'LL GET MY REVENGE ON HIM... BY USING DORIS EVANS!



AS FOR SPIDER-MAN, HE CONTINUES ON HIS WAY HOME, GROWING MORE MISERABLE EVERY MINUTE...

CAN I LEND YOU GUYS A HAND?

S-SPIDER, MAN! STAY AWAY, SAM... CALL THE COPS... QUICK!



THAT DOES IT! I COULDN'T WIN A POPULARITY CONTEST EVEN IF I WAS THE ONLY ONE ENTERED! NUTS!



THEN, THE VERY NEXT DAY...

IT'S HARD TO KEEP MY MIND ON MY SHOPPING! I'M SO ANXIOUS TO LEARN WHETHER JOHNNY IS KEEPING HIS PROMISE NOT TO FLAME ON!



HEY, TOMMY... COME BACK WITH MY FOOTBALL!

WATCH OUT, LADY!!

OH! LOOK WHERE YOU'RE RUNNING, YOU LITTLE MONSTERS!



KIDS!! THEY MADE ME DROP ALL MY PACKAGES!

MAY I HELP YOU, MISS?



I SAW WHAT HAPPENED, BUT I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO WARN YOU OF THOSE RUNNING CHILDREN!

WHY, THANK YOU! HOW VERY KIND OF YOU!



IT WAS A PLEASURE! BE CAREFUL NOW... DON'T DROP THEM AGAIN!

WHAT A NICE SWEET, GENTLEMANLY BOY!



UH-OH! LOOKS AS THOUGH SHE DROPPED HER WALLET IN THE CONFUSION!

I'D BETTER RETURN IT TO HER!

HMM... HER NAME'S DORIS EVANS! SHE DOESN'T LIVE FAR FROM HERE! WELL... I'VE GOT TIME... I'LL TAKE IT THERE NOW.



AND SO... MY WALLET! OH, I'M SO LUCKY YOU FOUND IT! I SIMPLY MUST GIVE A REWARD!

DON'T BE SILLY! I WAS GLAD TO DO IT! WELL, AT LEAST COME IN AND LET ME FIX YOU A GLASS OF COKE.

THANKS! I COULDN'T SURE USE ONE!



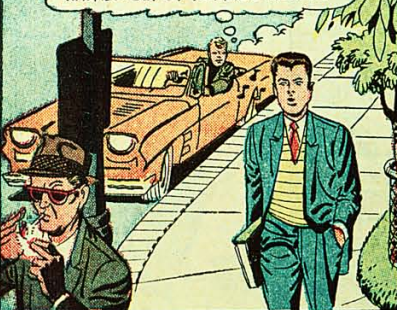
THEN, FOR THE NEXT FEW MINUTES...

YES, I LIVE WITH MY AUNT IN A SMALL PRIVATE HOUSE A SHORT DISTANCE FROM HERE.



MINUTES LATER, THINGS GET EVEN MORE INVOLVED AS JOHNNY STORM ARRIVES AT DORIS' HOUSE JUST IN TIME TO SEE THE DEPARTURE OF PETER PARKER!

I WONDER WHO THAT GUY IS? HE JUST WALKED OUT OF DORRIS' HOUSE!



WELL, DORRIS... IT'S BEEN TWELVE HOURS SO FAR, AND I STILL HAVEN'T FLAMED ON!



BY THE WAY... WHO WAS THAT FELLA WHO JUST LEFT HERE?

HMM! THIS IS MY CHANCE TO TRY TO MAKE JOHNNY MORE OF A GENTLEMAN, LIKE THAT NICE, REFINED PETER PARKER!

HIS NAME IS PETER PARKER, JOHNNY. HE'S A STUDENT AT MIDTOWN HIGH, AND HE'S JUST THE NICEST BOY! HE'S INTERESTED IN POLITICS, SCIENCE, AND CURRENT EVENTS!

WELL, GOODY GUMDROPS!



IT WOULDN'T DO YOU ANY HARM TO TAKE A LEAF FROM HIS BOOK, JOHNNY STORM! IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL IF SOME OF HIS POISE AND POLISH WERE TO RUB OFF ON YOU!



WHILE, OUTSIDE DORIS' HOUSE AGAIN...

NOW I KNOW JUST WHAT TO DO! THE NEXT TIME I SEE THE HUMAN TORCH... IT WILL BE IN THE FULL, FIGHTING ARMOR OF... THE BEETLE!



NOT LONG AFTERWARDS, PETER PARKER, WINDOW SHOPPING WITH BETTY BRANT, HEARS HIS NAME CALLED IN A COMMANDING TONE!

PARKER! I WANT TO SEE YOU!



JUST IMAGINE IF HE SUSPECTED WHO I REALLY AM! WOW!

HEY... LOOK GUYS! ISN'T THAT THE HUMAN TORCH TALKING TO PUNY PARKER??



I KNEW I'D FIND HIM SOONER OR LATER... AND I'M GLAD I THOUGHT OF WEARING MY UNIFORM... TO IMPRESS HIM!

RECOGNIZE WHO I AM, KID?



SKIP THE WISE-CRACKS, SKINNY! I JUST WANNA WARN YOU... DORIS EVANS IS MY GAL FRIEND... AND I HOPE YOU'RE NOT DUMB ENOUGH TO THINK YOU CAN BEAT MY TIME!



I MIGHT AS WELL LEAVE NOW! HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT ME ANYWAY!



YOU BRAINLESS, SWELL-HEADED, LOUD-MOUTHED JERK! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE SHOOTING OFF YOUR YAP AT??



YOU MAY BE A BIG, BRAVE SUPER-HERO TO EVERYONE ELSE... BUT TO ME, YOU'RE JUST A KNUCKLE-HEADED PAIN-IN-THE-NECK!! GET THE MESSAGE??



THIS I DIDN'T EXPECT! I CAN'T EVEN TAKE A POKER AT HIM... HE WOULDN'T BE FAIR! HE WOULDN'T HAVE A CHANCE!



AW, STOW IT! DON'T LET HIM FOOL YA! HE KNOWS THE TORCH WOULDN'T DARE FIGHT WITH HIM! A SUPER-POWERED MEMBER OF THE F.F. CAN'T GO AROUND BEATING UP NOBODIES!





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CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

Let A Panel Of Top Cartoonists Show YOU HOW TO BE A SUCCESSFUL COMIC ARTIST

AT HOME... IN YOUR SPARE TIME... AT LOW COST

YES, IN THE PRIVACY OF YOUR OWN HOME... as a fantastically low cost... YOU can start developing your hidden talents toward a real goal! If you have any feeling for art... if you like to draw... then a highly successful, well-paying career in Comic Art can be yours!

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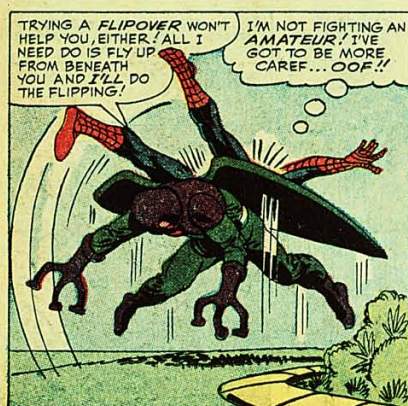
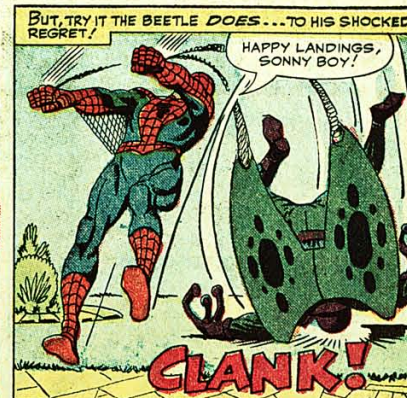
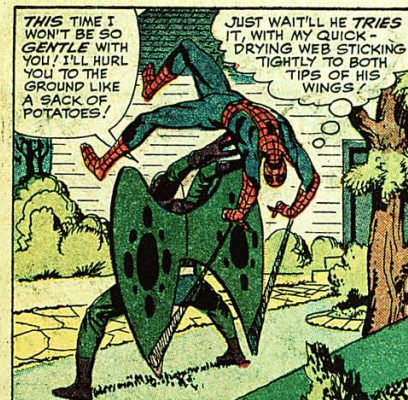
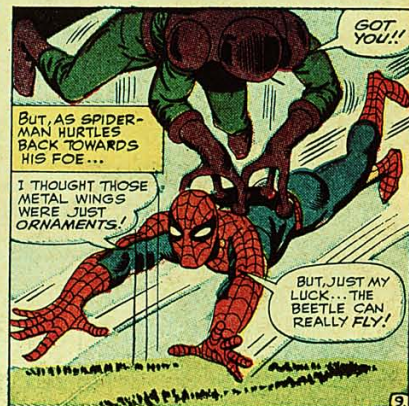
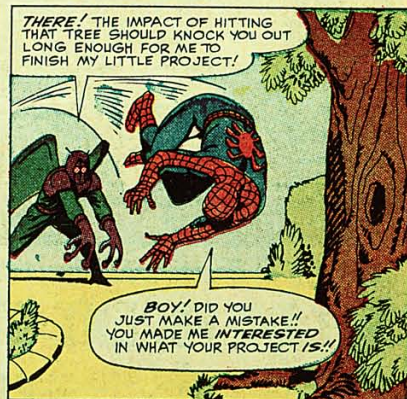
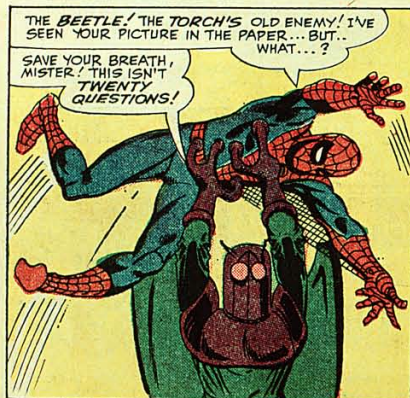
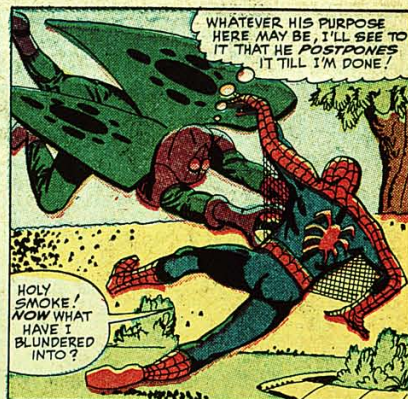
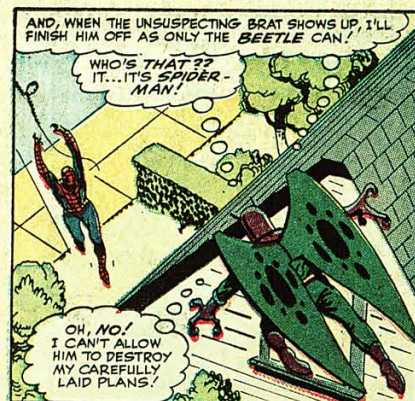
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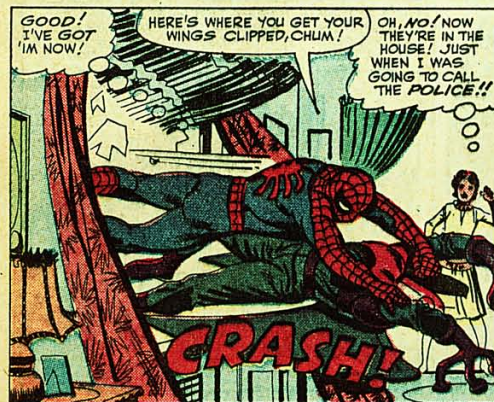
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WHILE, NOT TOO FAR AWAY, WE FIND...

WELL, NOW THAT DORRIE HAS HAD HER LITTLE LAUGH FOR THE DAY, I GUESS I'LL MOSY OVER AND PAY HER A VISIT!



SHE SURE IS A GREAT GAL, EVEN IF SHE DOES HAVE THAT NUTTY PREJUDICE AGAINST COSTUMED CRIME-FIGHTERS!



BUT, AT THAT PARTICULAR MOMENT, ANOTHER COSTUMED CRIME-FIGHTER WOULD LOOK MIGHTY GOOD TO THE YOUNG LADY IN QUESTION.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN? IF I COULD ONLY REACH THE PHONE!

HE'S A MORE DANGEROUS ENEMY THAN I THOUGHT! I HAD TO TRY A DIFFERENT TACTIC, THE GIRL! JUST THE THING!



HE'S REACHING FOR DORIS! I CAN'T GET TO HIM IN TIME!

WAAH! JUST WHAT I NEED! A PERFECT LITTLE HOSTAGE!

NO! STAY AWAY... BOTH OF YOU! HELP!!



I DARE NOT ATTACK THE BEETLE WHILE HE'S WITH DORIS! CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE OF HER BEING INJURED!

I THINK YOU'RE BRIGHT ENOUGH TO REALIZE THAT I NOW HOLD THE WINNING CARD, SPIDER-MAN! SO, DON'T TRY TO STOP US FROM LEAVING!

ON THE CONTRARY, MY DEAR... I CAN... AND I WILL! WITH YOU ACCOMPANYING ME, THERE IS STILL A CHANCE OF ME BAITING A TRAP FOR THE HUMAN TORCH!

A TRAP FOR THE TORCH!! SO THAT'S YOUR OBJECTIVE!

I'VE GOT TO FOLLOW THEM! HIS WINGS ARE SO HEAVY THAT HE CAN'T FLY VERY FAST... AND, IF HE DOESN'T GET TOO FAR, MY SPIDER SENSE SHOULD BE ABLE TO KEEP TRACK OF HIM!



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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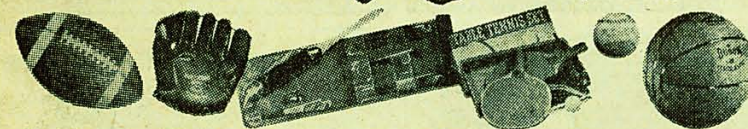
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Street and No. _____

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Print Your Last Name Plainly Here _____

Zip Code No. _____

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BUT, A FEW SECONDS AFTER OUR LITTLE CAST OF CHARACTERS HAS VACATED THE HOUSE, JOHNNY STORM ARRIVES, ONLY TO FIND...

THE PLACE IS A SHAMBLES! DORRIE IS GONE! AND...THERE ARE TRACES OF WEBBING AROUND!

HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO DUMB? HER PHONE CALL WAS FOR REAL!



FLAME ON!

WHATEVER HAPPENED, SPIDER-MAN MUST BE INVOLVED IN SOME WAY! BUT...HOW? WHY??

THEY CAN'T HAVE GONE FAR! I'VE GOT TO FIND THEM!



AND THEN, THE FLAMING, FLYING TEEN-AGER SEES...

THERE HE IS! TRYING TO ESCAPE!

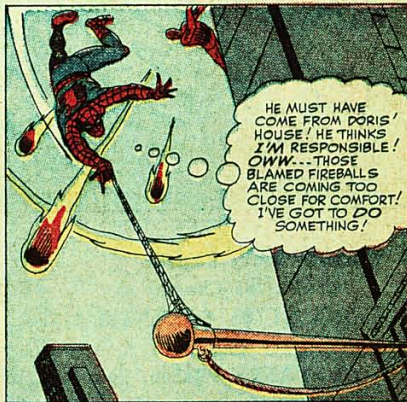


HOLD IT, YOU WEB-SPINNIN' CREEP! WHERE'S MY GIRL FRIEND?? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO DORRIE??

THE TORCH!!!



HE MUST HAVE COME FROM DORIS' HOUSE! HE THINKS I'M RESPONSIBLE! OW...THOSE BLAMED FIREBALLS ARE COMING TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT! I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!



HEADS UP, TORCHY! YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY BUSH-LEAGUE PITCHER AROUND HERE! HERE'S AN ASBESTOS WEB-BALL TO CHEW ON FOR A WHILE!

HOPES THAT STALLS HIM LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO PICK UP THE BEETLE'S TRAIL AGAIN!



UH OH! THE TORCH'S HEAT WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO MELT MY LITTLE PELLETS INTO NOTHINGNESS. HEY...WHAT'S THAT...?

THE BEETLE'S GETTING FURTHER AWAY! I'VE GOT TO GET TORCHY TO FOLLOW ME AFTER HIM!

IT WON'T BE HARD TO GET HIM TO TRAIL ME! HE'S SO ANGRY NOW, THAT I COULDN'T STOP HIM IF I WANTED TO!

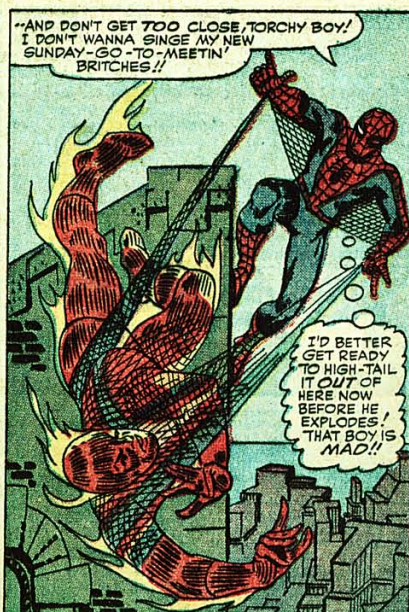
TALK, YOU DOUBLE-DEALIN' CRUMB! WHERE'S DORIS EVANS??

STICK WITH ME, HOT STUFF, AND YOU'LL FIND OUT! HERE...HAVE YOUR FIRE-BALLS BACK...YOU MAY NEED 'EM AGAIN!



"AND DON'T GET TOO CLOSE, TORCHY BOY! I DON'T WANNA SINGE MY NEW SUNDAY-GO-TO-MEETIN' BRITCHES!!

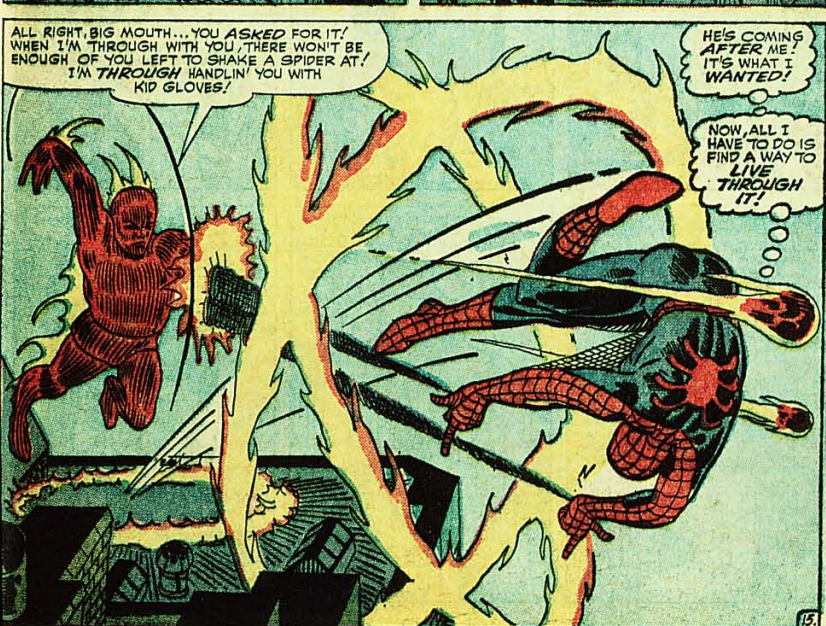
I'D BETTER GET READY TO HIGH-TAIL IT OUT OF HERE NOW BEFORE HE EXPLODES! THAT BOY'S MAD!!

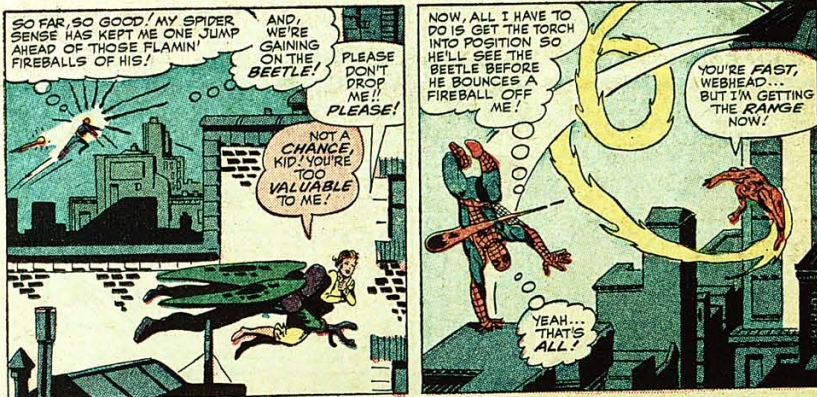


ALL RIGHT, BIG MOUTH...YOU ASKED FOR IT! WHEN I'M THROUGH WITH YOU, THERE WON'T BE ENOUGH OF YOU LEFT TO SHAKE A SPIDER AT! I'M THROUGH HANDLIN' YOU WITH KID GLOVES!

HE'S COMING AFTER ME! IT'S WHAT I WANTED!

NOW, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FIND A WAY TO LIVE THROUGH IT!





BUT, ON THE SLIM CHANCE THAT SOMEBODY MAY BUY OUR SPIDY MAG TO SEE J. JONAH JAMESON INSTEAD OF OUR WEB-SPINNER IN ACTION, HERE HE IS... JUST FOR A SEC...



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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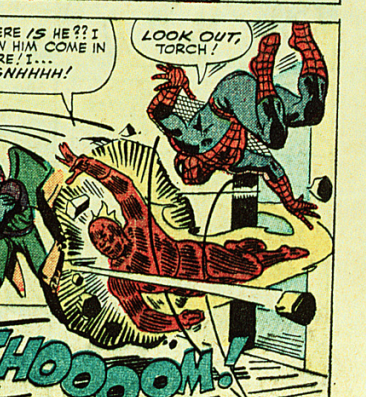
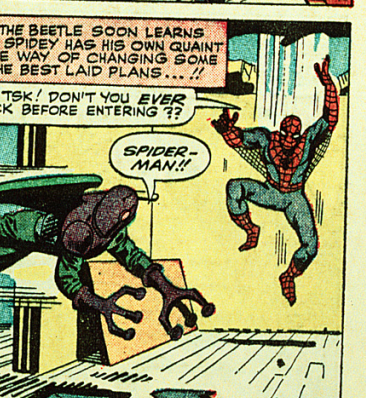
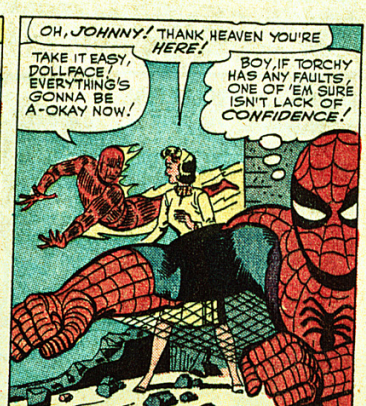
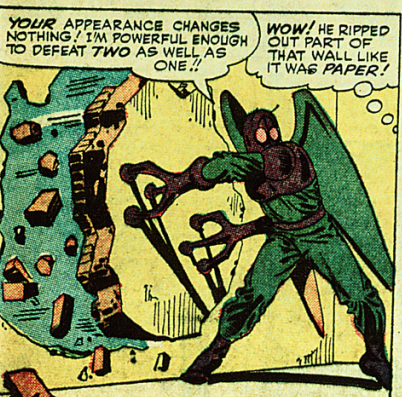
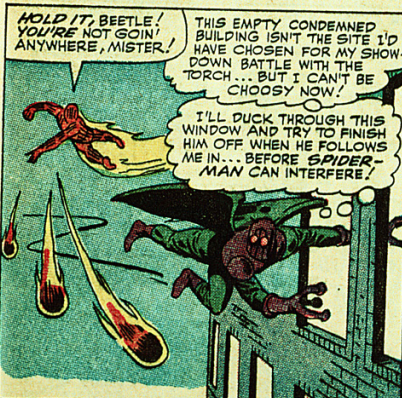
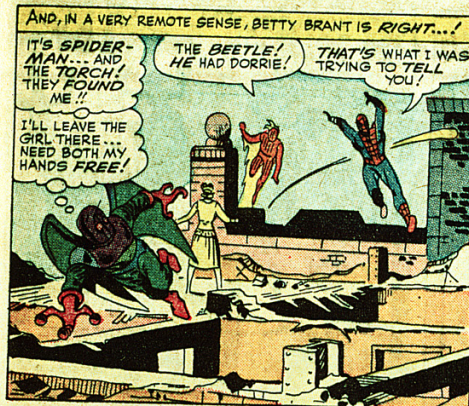
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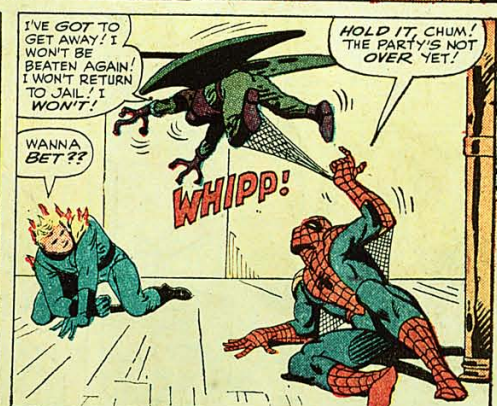
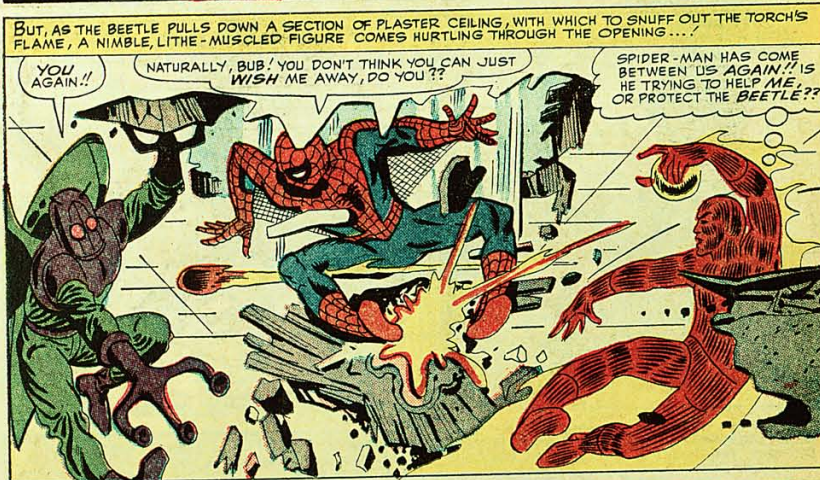
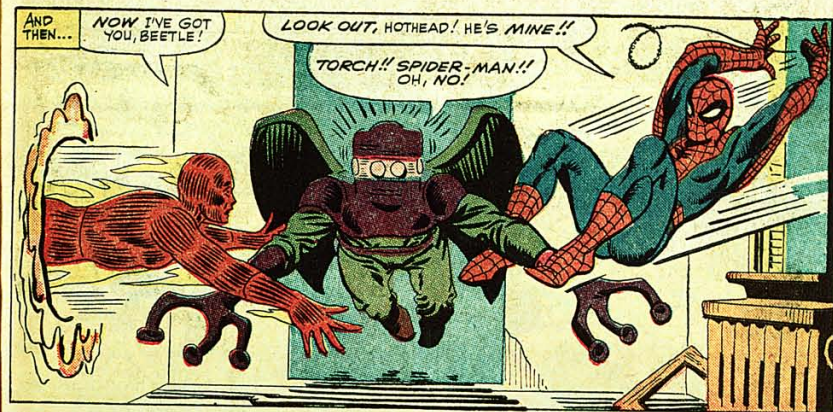
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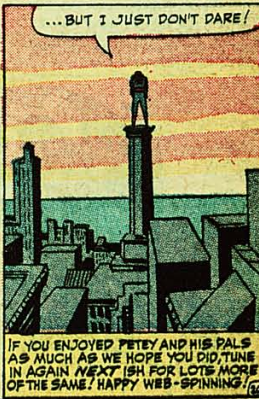
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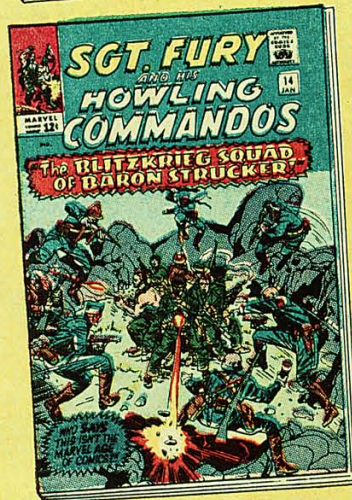
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Dear Stan and Steve,

When I first saw the cover of SPIDER-MAN #17 what a surprise I got! #17 even beat your former peak, #9. The reason I liked #9 was the human interest problems Spidey had in it. Up until now, he never had any like them again although he hasn't exactly been living the life of Riley since then. But in this, everything happened to him—the poor guy even lost Betty, his sole comfort #9. Other things I enjoyed about this issue were, as usual, the art, action and humor. Also, I was glad to see the Torch finally admit that he likes Spidey. The thing I enjoyed most next to Spidey's problems was the way you completely changed the mood of the story, perhaps unconsciously. It reminded me of the word 'tragicomic' which applies to many of your stories. Finally, I have to praise you for page 22 which was undoubtedly the most dramatic comic page I've ever read. Stan, you wrote it beautifully and Steve, you portrayed perfectly the haggard Peter as his despair became deeper and deeper until, at last, he stands crushed beneath the burden of the multitude of misfortunes which have befallen him. Say, that cornballness of yours is contagious! Seriously, fellas, #17 was your best effort so far!

Brian Yates, 1094 Chestnut St.
Newton, Mass. 02164

And, as the sun sinks in the west, we pause to wipe away our tears of gratitude! Thanks, Brian, from a couple of cornballs to another.

Dear Stan and Steve,

A couple of days ago I bought the latest issue of SPIDER-MAN, and, as usual, I was so deeply impressed with it that I felt I should write you about it. Then, I had the tremendous good fortune to be at the drug store at the very moment that the new magazines were delivered, among which was the SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL. In the preceding days I had been contemplating suicide for fear that I should miss it. I pounced upon one, and managed to escape without being mobbed. Needless to say, they were sold out in five minutes. As superb as SPIDER-MAN #16 was, I must say that it was greatly overshadowed by the first SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL. I read Spidey's origin in the MARVEL TALES ANNUAL, and I must say, Steve, that your interpretation of Spider-Man has come a long way since your first efforts. This becomes extremely evident in Spidey's annual. Never had your artwork been so good. I just can't find the proper adjectives to describe accurately the fabulous full-page illustrations scattered throughout the story. In my prejudiced opinion, spectacular Steve Ditko could give Picasso a run for his money. And just so smilin' Stan doesn't feel neglected, his story was the usual fast-paced, action-packed, suspenseful, drama-charged epic that you'd expect from a literary genius. And after gazing dumbfounded at those superb pin-ups, I was wondering what more can two human beings cram into seventy-two pages. I turned the page and found out. I promptly keeled over in fits of uncontrollable laughter at the sight of a rather despondent Stan Lee being overrun by twenty-odd characters of his own creation, and a sleepy Steve Ditko being relieved of his duties by a couple of cultured spiders. Those last three pages were a real joy to read, and it gave us a glimpse of all the merry fun and games that must go on at that nouthouse that we know as the Marvel bullpen, day after day. All in all, Spidey's annual

was a smash hit with me! It's really gratifying to know that there are still such masters as you in the field, to keep the comic media in its rightful place in the literary world. So, 'till next time, take good care of yourselves; We in Marvel-land, want you two nuts around for a long, long time. Sincerely,

Keith McWalter, 2674 Lindenwood Dr.
Bridgeville, Pa.

Who SAYS we only print the flattering letters? Keith called us "nuts", didn't he? See how fair we are?

Dear Stan and Steve,

It's truly the "Marvel Age" as far as comics go! We never dreamed that comics could be so completely rejuvenated by so few. We are both pre-med students at Centre College, and we just want you to know that the "Marvel Age" has become the "Marvel Rage" here. For instance: The assignment for the DIKE fraternity's pledge class was to round up 30 Marvels within an hour just so the actives could read them. Not boasting, but we (the Jackson duo) have the honor of claiming the beginning of the "Marvel Rage" here at school. It all started as we sought to pass the lunch hour by buying one comic each day. Needless to say, the first Marvel put an abrupt halt to this meaningless quest. We were hooked, and the Marvel Rage had begun. Spider-Man is our favorite by far, and the X-Men are our favorite group (I know this may cause a rumbling within the Baxter Building). The greatest fight you have ever produced was between the Hulk and the Thing (more!). Captain America could become one of your best and should have his own mag. We would warn you, however, not to make your villains too unbelievable; e.g., we find it hard to believe that the Owl in DAREDEVIL #3 can glide around, especially as big as he is. In closing, we would like to commend you at Marvel for raising the comic literature to its highest level ever. Keep it up!

Elmer and John Jackson

119 W. Lex St., Danville, Ky.
Hey, that's kinda cute, fellas! "The Marvel Rage of Comics!" The only thing we wanna know is: Are we stealing it from you, or did you cop it from us?

Dear Stan and Steve,

I was on board with nothing to do when a buddy gave me a few copies of your SPIDER-MAN mag. As I read them I was amazed at the quality and forethought that was put into each story. Unlike other comic heroes Spider-Man seems more realistic. I think that Spider-Man is the greatest thing that's ever happened to comic books! Would you please start publishing SPIDER-MAN mags twice a month so we won't have to wait so long for each copy!

Harry Hawkins, BM3, USS Merrick

c/o Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, Cal.
We'd love to oblige, sailor, but if we published Spidey twice a month you'd have to wait even longer! (Mainly because how much work can a couple of guys do while they're in the hospital with nervous breakdowns!)

Dear Stan and Steve,

I immensely enjoy your magazines. Your characters have a depth and humanity unequalled and almost unchallenged by other magazines. For this reason they are ever new! Moreover, they have an intellectual content unmatched in comicdom. However, I was quite disappointed with your revelation as to why J. Jonah Jameson...

Continued...

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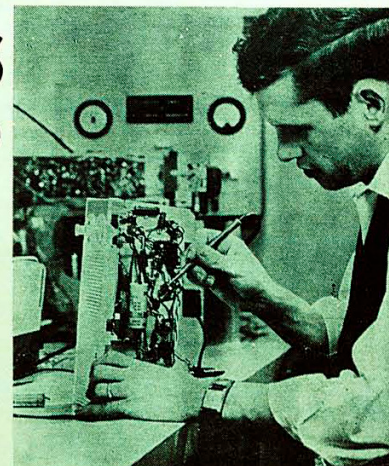
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